

Cost of Food-Assistance Programs Declined Slightly in First Half of 1996

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USDA oversees a number of food-assistance programs whose goals are to provide people with access to a more nutritious diet, to improve the eating habits of the Nation's children, and to help America's farmers by providing an outlet to distribute foods purchased under commodity price-support programs (see box on domestic food-assistance programs). For the first 6 months of fiscal 1996 (October 1995-March 1996), USDA spent \$19.7 billion on food-assistance programs. Expenditures were 0.5 percent lower than the same period in fiscal 1995 (table 1). If the trend is found to have continued for the entire year, it would mark the first decrease in annual total food-assistance program expenditures since fiscal 1982 (fig. 1). However, the rate of change in expenditures for individual food-assistance programs varied greatly, with some programs expanding and others decreasing significantly.

Most of USDA's food-assistance programs are administered by USDA's Food and Consumer Service (FCS), which works in partnership with the States. The Federal Government is generally responsible for food costs for the programs and

shares administrative costs with the States. States determine eligibility to participate in the programs and deliver services.

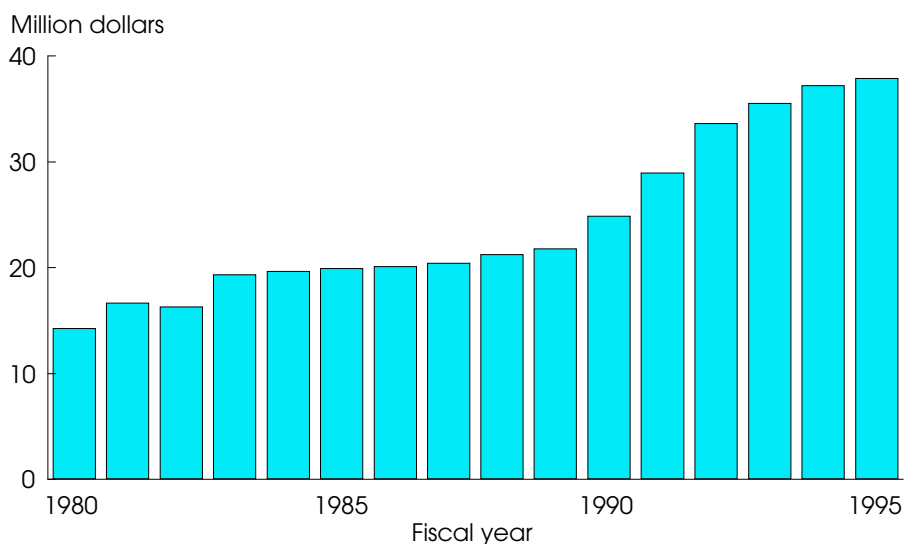
Food Stamp-Related Programs Decrease

There are two food stamp-related programs: the Food Stamp Program, the single largest food-assistance program, and the much smaller Nutrition Assistance Programs for Puerto Rico and the Northern Marianas. Combined expenditures for these programs totaled \$12.9 billion, or almost two-thirds of all food-

assistance program expenditures during the first half of fiscal 1996. This was a decrease of almost 2 percent from the same period in fiscal 1995.

Expenditures for the *Food Stamp Program* depend largely on the number of participants and the cost of the actual food assistance. (In recent years, the Federal share of State administrative costs and other costs, such as printing and processing the coupons, typically accounted for only 7 percent of total program costs.) Program expenditures for the first half of fiscal 1996 totaled \$12.3 billion, a decrease of almost 2 per-

Figure 1
Growth in USDA's Food-Assistance Programs Slows



Source: USDA, Food and Consumer Service.

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Table 1

Food-Assistance Program Outlays Down Slightly in First Half of Fiscal 1996

Program	Fiscal 1995 expenditures			First half fiscal 1996 expenditures	
	Total	October-March	April-September	October-March	Change from first half of fiscal 1995
	Million dollars			Million dollars	Percent
Food stamp-related programs	25,756.0	13,074.3	12,681.7	12,871.8	-1.5
Food Stamp Program	24,621.8	12,507.2	12,114.6	12,298.5	-1.7
Nutrition Assistance Programs	1,134.2	567.1	567.1	573.3	1.1
Child nutrition programs ¹	8,019.9	4,681.7	3,338.2	4,726.1	.9
National School Lunch	5,160.2	3,253.7	1,906.5	3,278.5	.8
School Breakfast	1,048.2	635.8	412.4	663.1	4.3
Child and Adult Care Food	1,463.9	746.8	717.1	771.4	3.3
Summer Food Service	236.9	5.4	231.5	4.1	-25.0
Special Milk	17.0	9.3	7.7	9.0	-3.2
Supplemental food programs	3,529.1	1,710.1	1,819.0	1,817.9	6.3
WIC	3,429.9	1,659.3	1,770.6	1,770.8	6.7
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	98.3	50.8	47.5	47.1	-7.3
Food donation programs	417.4	226.7	190.7	147.8	-34.8
Food Distribution on Indian Reservations	64.9	30.9	34.0	32.0	3.6
Nutrition Program for the Elderly	150.7	81.5	69.2	70.8	-13.1
Disaster Feeding	2.3	.8	1.5	.4	-50.0
TEFAP	89.0	52.2	36.8	15.4	-70.5
Charitable Institutions and Summer Camps	64.0	36.0	28.0	8.7	-75.8
Soup Kitchens and Food Banks	45.6	25.3	20.3	20.5	-19.0
All programs ²	37,843.9	19,749.7	18,094.2	19,652.0	-.5

Notes: ¹Includes Federal share of state administration expenses. ²Includes food program administration expenses. Source: USDA, Food and Consumer Service.

cent over the same period the previous year. This drop was largely because of decreased participation in the program. It fell from an average 27 million people per month during the first half of 1995 to 25.9 million during the first half of 1996. Participation for each month of the first half of fiscal 1996 was lower than in the same month in fiscal 1995 (fig. 2). In turn, each month of fiscal 1995 was lower than the same month of fiscal 1994, when food stamp participation reached its highest level since the program began. This decline is

largely a result of the country's improving economy. The declining participation levels more than offset the increase in average benefits from \$71.71 per month per person during the first half of 1995 to \$73.41 per month during the first half of 1996.

Combined grants for the *Nutrition Assistance Programs in Puerto Rico and the Northern Marianas* totaled \$573 million during the first 6 months of fiscal 1996, an increase of 1 percent over the same period the previous year.

Child Nutrition Programs Grew Slightly

The child nutrition programs—the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Food, Summer Food Service, and Special Milk Programs—provide nutritious meals and snacks to children in public and nonprofit private schools, childcare institutions, certain adult daycare centers, and summer recreation programs. Together, expenditures for these programs were \$4.7 billion for the first half of

fiscal 1996, a 1-percent increase over the same period in fiscal 1995.

The largest of the child nutrition programs, the *National School Lunch Program*, served an average of 24.1 million meals per day during the first half of fiscal 1996, a 1-percent increase over the first 6 months of the previous year. Expenditures also increased 1 percent to \$3.3 billion over the same period.

Serving an average of 6.1 million meals per day during the first half of fiscal 1996, the *School Breakfast Program* is much smaller than the School Lunch Program. However, the program's rapid expansion continued into 1996, as total meals served increased by 2 percent and total expenditures increased by 4 percent for the first 6 months of fis-

cal 1996 over the same period in fiscal 1995.

Expenditures for the *Child and Adult Care Food Program* during the first half of fiscal 1996 increased by 3 percent, and the number of meals served increased by 1 percent compared with the first half of fiscal 1995.

Although the *Summer Food Service's* expenditures decreased by 25 percent in the first half of fiscal 1996

Domestic Food-Assistance Programs

The Federal Government administers a network of food- and nutrition-assistance programs that helps ensure that everybody, regardless of income, has access to an adequate and nutritious diet. Four programs—the Food Stamp Program, the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program—are “entitlement” programs. That is, all persons meeting the eligibility requirements are automatically entitled to assistance by these programs. Total program expenditures vary depending on the number of people in need. All other food-assistance programs operate under annual appropriations that limit the amount of assistance provided.

The Food Stamp Program is the largest Federal food-assistance program. Unlike the other food-assistance programs that target specific groups, the Food Stamp Program is designed to address the basic nutritional needs of all eligible low-income families or individuals. Eligibility and benefits are based on household size, household assets, and gross and net income. Most participants receive monthly allotments of coupons that are redeemable for food at nearly 200,000 authorized retail foodstores. However, a growing number receive an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which operates like a bank card. The size of a household's monthly allotment is based on

USDA's Thrifty Food Plan, a low-cost model diet that meets standards for a nutritious diet.

The Food Stamp Program in Puerto Rico was replaced in 1982 by the **Nutrition Assistance Program**. A Nutrition Assistance Program for the Northern Marianas was started in 1982. These modified food stamp programs receive Federal funds through block grants, which allow these areas to operate programs designed specifically for their low-income citizens.

The second largest food-assistance program, the **National School Lunch Program**, provides lunch to children in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child-care institutions. Schools receive cash and some commodities from USDA to offset the cost of foodservice. In return, the schools must serve lunches that meet Federal nutritional requirements and offer free or reduced-price lunches to eligible children. Any child at a participating school may enroll in the program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals, and those from families between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals.

The **School Breakfast Program** provides breakfast to school children, with students from low-income families receiving free or reduced-price meals. Although eligibility is the same as that for the

National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program is considerably smaller and serves a greater percentage of free meals.

The **Child and Adult Care Food Program** provides healthy meals and snacks to children in nonprofit childcare centers and family and group daycare homes. An adult care portion of the program provides meals to the elderly and functionally impaired adults. Children from low-income families are eligible in the centers for free or reduced-price meals based on the same eligibility guidelines used in the School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

The **Summer Food Service Program** provides free meals to children (age 18 and under) and handicapped people over 18 years of age during school vacations in areas where at least half of the children are from households with incomes at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. There is no income test for eligibility in these low-income areas; any child in the program's operating area may participate. Sites not in low-income areas may participate if at least half of the children are from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (based on income applications collected from program participants). All children at these sites may receive free meals. The program is operated at the local level by sponsors who are reimbursed by USDA.

compared with the first half of fiscal 1995, the figures are somewhat misleading. Most of this program's expenditures are incurred during the second half of the fiscal year. For example, in fiscal 1995, only 2 percent of the Summer Food Service program's expenditures were incurred during the first 6 months.

The *Special Milk Program* experienced a 3-percent spending drop, in

large part because of a 5-percent decrease in program participation. This decrease, part of a continuing trend, is due primarily to the expansion of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Schools that participate in these and other federally assisted food programs are not eligible to participate in the Special Milk Program.

Supplemental Food Programs...Participation in WIC Grew

Two programs comprise the supplemental food programs—the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Both were es-

The **Special Milk Program** provides funding for milk in public and nonprofit schools, childcare centers, summer camps, and similar institutions that have no other federally assisted food program. Milk is provided either free or at low cost to all children at participating schools. Schools may elect to serve free milk to children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level.

The **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** provides nutritious supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals at no cost to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, as well as infants and children up to their fifth birthday who are determined by health professionals to be nutritionally at risk. Participants receive vouchers that can be redeemed at retail foodstores for specific foods that are rich in the nutrients typically lacking in the target population.

The **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** provides nutritional supplemental foods at no cost to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, and infants and children up to their sixth birthday. CSFP often operates in areas where WIC is not available. Unlike the much larger WIC program, CSFP also serves the elderly (60 years of age or older), who now constitute over half the program's participants. Instead of vouchers, it

provides food tailored to the nutritional needs of the participants.

The **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations** provides commodities to American Indians living on or near participating reservations who choose not to participate in the Food Stamp Program. It provides an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for many American Indians who live far from foodstores. Participants receive a monthly food package weighing about 50 to 75 pounds that contains a variety of foods selected to meet their health needs and preferences. Eligibility is based on household income, resources, and proximity to a reservation.

The **Nutrition Program for the Elderly** provides cash and commodities to States for meals for senior citizens. Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the program receives commodity foods and financial support from USDA. Food is served through meals-on-wheels programs or in senior citizen centers and similar settings. There is no income test for eligibility; all people age 60 or older and their spouses are eligible for the program.

The **Disaster Feeding Program** is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is responsible for coordinating disaster relief. Under this program, USDA purchases food commodities for assistance in major disasters or emergencies when other

food supplies are not readily available.

The **Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**, which began as a cheese-giveaway program in 1982, was implemented as a way to reduce inventories and storage costs of surplus commodities through distribution to needy households. In 1989, Congress appropriated funds to purchase additional commodities specifically for this program. USDA buys the food, processes and packages it, and ships it to the States. Within broad guidelines, each State sets its own eligibility criteria and selects local emergency feeding organizations to distribute the food.

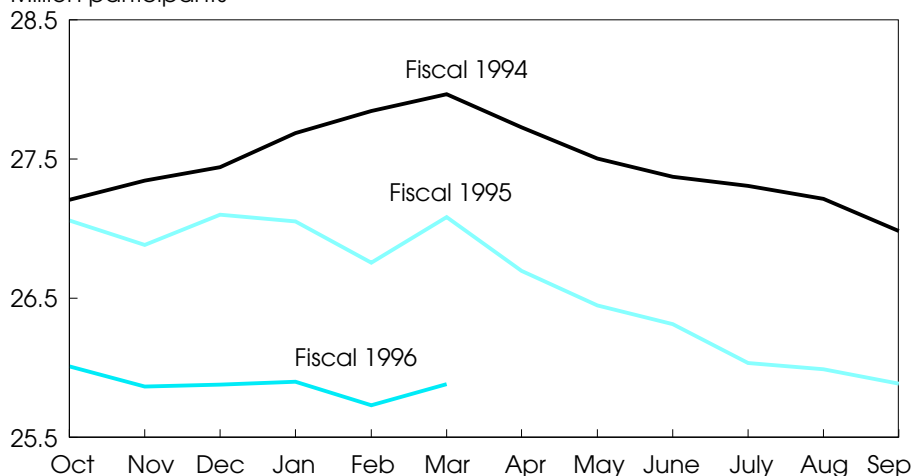
Under the **Food Distribution Programs for Charitable Institutions and Summer Camps**, USDA donates food to nonprofit charitable institutions serving meals on a regular basis to needy persons and to summer camps for children. These institutions include church-operated community kitchens for the homeless, orphanages, soup kitchens, temporary shelters, and homes for the elderly.

USDA purchases food specifically to distribute to soup kitchens and food banks under the **Food Donation Programs to Soup Kitchens and Food Banks**. Commodities are allocated to the States based on a formula that considers the number of people below the poverty level and the number unemployed in each State. Priority is given to institutions that prepare food for the homeless.

Figure 2

Food Stamp Participation Continues To Fall

Million participants



Source: USDA, Food and Consumer Service.

established to provide supplemental foods to low-income women, infants, and children, although the Commodity Supplemental Food Program now serves the elderly as well. Combined expenditures for these programs increased 6 percent to \$1.8 billion during the first half of fiscal 1996.

The *Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children* (WIC), along with the Food Stamp Program and the school meals programs, is one of the pillars of the Nation's nutrition security strategy. At almost \$1.8 billion for the first half of fiscal 1996, expenditures for the WIC program grew 7 percent relative to the first half of 1995, the largest percentage increase among all the food-assistance programs. During this period, the average number of participants increased by 3 percent. WIC was able to serve more people because of the expansion of cost containment measures, especially infant formula rebates, and increases in appropriated funds.

Expenditures for the much smaller *Commodity Supplemental Food Program* decreased by 7 percent during the first 6 months of fiscal 1996. Participation also dropped, falling 5 percent during this period, primarily among women, infants, and children.

Food Donation Programs Decreased Significantly

Food Donation programs are comprised of six individual programs: the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Nutrition Program for the Elderly, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, the Commodity Distribution to Soup Kitchens and Food Banks, the Commodity Distribution to Charitable Institutions and Summer Camps, and the Disaster Feeding Program. Some of the food for these programs comes via USDA's commodity price-support programs. USDA distributes some of this surplus food in the Child Nutrition and the Supplemental Food Programs, but most is distributed through the Food Donation programs. USDA also purchases

foods specifically to distribute in its Food Donation Programs.

In the past, most of the foods distributed in these programs were surplus commodities. However, modifications in the commodity price-support programs and changing market conditions have resulted in less available surplus food. As a result, the programs have contracted significantly in recent years as reflected in a 35-percent decrease in expenditures for the first half of fiscal 1996.

The *Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations* was the only food donation program that grew. During the first 6 months of fiscal 1996, program expenditures increased 4 percent over the first 6 months of the previous year, to \$32 million. Program participation also grew by almost 4 percent during this period.

USDA's expenditures for the *Nutrition Program for the Elderly* during the first half of fiscal 1996 decreased 13 percent over the same period a year earlier, and the number of meals served decreased 3 percent.

Expenditures for the *Disaster Feeding Program* also decreased markedly during the first half of fiscal 1996. Program expenditures dropped by half compared with the same period the previous year.

The *Emergency Food Assistance Program* (TEFAP) expenditures totaled \$15.4 million during the first half of fiscal 1996. This was a 71-percent decrease from the same period in fiscal 1995.

The largest percentage change in expenditures among all of the food-assistance programs, a 76-percent decrease, was for the *Commodity Distribution to Charitable Institutions and Summer Camps Program*.

During the first 6 months of fiscal 1996, expenditures for the *Commodity Distribution to Soup Kitchens and Food Banks* fell 19 percent from the first 6 months of fiscal 1995.

Many Food-Assistance Programs Extended to 2002

Several important pieces of legislation that directly affect the Nation's food-assistance programs were enacted in fiscal 1996. On April 4, the 1996 Farm Bill (PL 104-127) was signed into law by President Clinton. The Bill, referred to as the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, provides a 7-year framework for USDA to administer agriculture and food programs. Although farm commodity programs are the major focus of the Act, Title IV—Nutrition Assistance—contains provisions on several domestic food-assistance programs. The Act reauthorized the Nutrition Assistance Programs in Puerto Rico and American Samoa, the Commodity Supplemental Food

Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Soup Kitchen and Food Bank Program through fiscal 2002.

The Act also provides start-up assistance for Community Food Projects. The Act authorizes USDA to make grants to assist eligible private nonprofit entities in establishing and carrying out community food projects, which are defined as community-based projects that require a one-time infusion of Federal assistance to become self-sustaining. The projects are designed to: (1) meet the food needs of low-income people; (2) increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs; and (3) promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues.

The Act also contains several provisions that affect the Food Stamp Program. However, these provisions

were superseded by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, which will significantly affect food assistance in the United States (see box on welfare reform).

What's Next...Nutrition Is a Priority

One of USDA's major initiatives for fiscal 1996 is to continue to make healthy eating an integral part of the Federal food-assistance programs. For example, USDA will move forward with the implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children, a comprehensive, integrated plan to ensure that children have healthy meals at school. A major part of this plan is the modification of school lunches and breakfasts to meet the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. USDA launched Team

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Nutrition to help schools implement the new nutrition standards. Team Nutrition gives schools educational and technical resources to motivate children to improve their diets and provides new tools and techniques

to help foodservice staffs prepare nutritious, appealing meals. USDA will continue these efforts to ensure that schools can fully implement the Dietary Guidelines by the statutory deadline of July 1, 1998.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service. *Annual Historical Review, Fiscal Year 1993*. Aug. 1995.

New Welfare Law Reduces Food Stamp Benefits

On August 23, 1996, President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The Act creates important changes in USDA's food-assistance programs. The Food Stamp Program and the child nutrition programs will not be funded with block grants. These programs are retained as entitlement programs and will provide benefits to anyone who meets the eligibility requirements. The Act's major changes to the Food Stamp Program are the denial of benefits to most legal immigrants, a time limit on the participation of able-bodied adults, and across-the-board food stamp cuts.

The law creates a block grant for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to replace Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the Nation's main cash welfare program, and several smaller, related programs. The Federal Government was expected to spend \$15.9 billion on AFDC and related programs in fiscal 1997. Federal funding for the new block grant is fixed at a base of \$16.4 billion annually through fiscal 2002. Each State is entitled to a portion of the grant based on its recent spending on AFDC and related programs, and, within broad guidelines, can decide how the funds will be spent. States can receive more than the basic block grant under certain circumstances from a contingency fund.

The Act is estimated to cut Federal welfare spending by approximately \$54 billion over 6 years. About \$27 billion will come from scaling back the Food Stamp Program, including cuts in food stamps

for legal immigrants. It is expected that Food Stamp Program expenditures will be reduced by approximately 16 percent from previously legislated levels when the changes are fully effective in 2002. The 1996 Act reauthorizes the Food Stamp Program through 2002.

States Will Have More Flexibility

The 1996 Act simplifies the administration of the Food Stamp Program by expanding States' flexibility in setting requirements for service, for example, by waiving office interviews for elderly or disabled applicants. States are authorized to implement a single set of rules and procedures to determine eligibility for their State cash-assistance programs and the Food Stamp Program. States may disqualify individuals from the Food Stamp Program for nonpayment of child support or for refusal to cooperate with the Child Support Enforcement Program.

The Act also allows States to reduce, within limits, benefits to some food-assistance recipients. Cashing-out of food stamp benefits (providing cash in place of stamps) is prohibited under the new waiver authority. However, States may convert food stamp benefits to wage subsidies for employers who hire certain food stamp recipients. The recipient would then receive wages instead of food stamps.

States will have greater flexibility in running the Food Stamp Program Employment and Training Program. This program is designed to help members of food stamp households gain job skills and training. The base

Federal funding level for the program increases each year, with \$75 million budgeted in fiscal 1996, \$79 million in fiscal 1997, \$81 million in fiscal 1998, and \$84 million in fiscal 1999. Funding will then increase by \$2 million per year until fiscal 2002.

Food Stamp Benefits Will Be Cut

Under the 1996 Act, the maximum food stamp benefits that a household can receive will be 100 percent of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan rather than the current 103 percent. Under the current Food Stamp Program, a standard deduction is subtracted from household monthly income to determine the household's eligibility and the corresponding amount of food stamp benefits. The new law freezes the standard deduction at the 1994 level (\$134 for the 48 contiguous States and Washington, DC) and will not adjust the deduction for inflation. The new law retains a cap on the excess shelter deduction (which was to be eliminated January 1, 1997) and its increase is limited through fiscal 2002.

In the past, the Food Stamp Program did not count energy assistance provided by State and local governments as income. Under the 1996 Act, however, energy assistance will be considered part of the recipient's countable income (Federal energy assistance will still be excluded). Also, Food Stamp Program households are not currently required to include the earnings of students in primary or secondary schools under age 22 as part of their countable income. The new law lowers this age limit to 17.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service. *Explanatory Notes to Accompany Administration FY 1997 Budget Request*. Feb. 1996.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service. *Program Information Report (Keydata), U.S. Summary*, March 1996. May 1996.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Communications. *USDA 1996 Farm Bill Fact Sheet: Nutrition*. Apr. 1996. ■

Under the Act, legal immigrants, including current recipients, are ineligible for the Food Stamp Program until they become citizens, have worked in the United States for at least 10 years, or are military veterans with an honorable discharge. Currently, about 7 percent of Food Stamp Program participants are legal immigrants. Legal immigrants who are refugees or who have been granted asylum are eligible for their first 5 years in the United States.

The Act stipulates that able-bodied recipients ages 18 to 50 with no dependents can receive food stamp benefits for only 3 months in every 36-month period, unless they are engaged in work or a work-related program for at least 20 hours per week. If the recipient finds work and then is laid off, an additional 3 months of benefits are allowed once in the 36-month period. Searching for a job or participating in job-search training will not qualify as work. States may request a waiver of this provision for areas with an unemployment rate greater than 10 percent or where there are too few jobs to provide employment.

The new law also prohibits an increase in food stamp benefits when a household's income is reduced because of a penalty imposed under an income-based public-assistance program, for example, failure to comply with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program's work requirements.

Immigrants Remain Eligible for Child Nutrition Programs

Both legal and illegal immigrants remain eligible for the National

School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Special Milk Program, as long as they are eligible for free public education under State or local law. States have the option to provide or deny illegal and certain non-immigrant legal aliens WIC and other child nutrition program benefits.

The reimbursement rate for meals served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program at family daycare centers in middle- and upper-income neighborhoods is reduced by approximately one-half, to \$0.95 for lunch and \$0.27 for breakfast. Reimbursement rates for the Summer Food Program are reduced to \$1.97 per lunch from the current \$2.16. Grants from USDA to bring the School Breakfast Program to new schools will be discontinued. Currently, these start-up grants are funded at \$5 million per year through fiscal 1997.

Act Will Require Electronic Benefits and Strengthen Penalties

The 1996 Act requires States to implement an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system before October 2002 unless waived by USDA. It also exempts food stamp EBT systems from Regulation E (which limits the liability for loss resulting from the unauthorized use of electronic fund transfer cards, such as credit or ATM bank cards). This exemption means that food stamp recipients would bear the full responsibility for benefits lost through the unauthorized use of their EBT cards.

The Act strengthens penalties for fraudulent behavior or trafficking in

food stamps (selling or buying food stamps for cash or nonfood items). It doubles penalties for food stamp recipients who commit fraud. Individuals convicted of trafficking in \$500 worth of food stamps or more are permanently disqualified from receiving food stamps. Those convicted of fraudulently receiving multiple benefits are disqualified for 10 years. The Act disqualifies most individuals who are convicted of a felony for using, possessing, or distributing illegal drugs, although States may opt out of this provision. The Act also improves USDA's ability to monitor foodstores by establishing new reporting requirements.

TEFAP and the Soup Kitchen/Food Bank Programs are combined under the new law, and an additional \$100 million per year is provided to purchase commodities. The law eliminates approximately \$2 million in Federal matching funds for food stamp outreach activities.

The number of jobs available to welfare recipients and their earning potential is subject to considerable conjecture. The success of the new legislation will depend on whether welfare recipients can obtain jobs that make them self-sufficient. Until they achieve self-sufficiency, the changes in welfare "as we know it" will increase the importance of the Food Stamp Program as part of the American social safety net.

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